the streets and other public places, in a good and proper condition, and that further provision should be made for promoting the health and convenience of the inhabitants of towns and populous districts.

Inspectors are to be nominated by one of the Secretaries of State at salaries to be determined on, to assist in carrying the Act into execution; and commissioners are to be elected by the rate-payers for every town and district. That is to say, "*Nine* commissioners for every town or district in which the number of inhabitants specified in such order in council shall not exceed *ten thousand*; *twelve* commissioners for every town or district in which the number of inhabitants so specified shall not exceed *twenty thousand*, and so on at the proportion of *three* additional commissioners for every additional *ten thousand* inhabitants specified in such order in Council: provided always, that in no case shall the number of commissioners elected by the occupiers and owners of property as aforesaid exceed *twenty seven*."

Commissioners are to provide a map of the district within their jurisdiction. "And be it enacted, that the said commissioners shall cause to be inscribed on such map and plan a series of marks or figures denoting a complete system of levelling, exhibiting the true form or relief of the ground in the area or district, and shall also cause to be drawn, wherever practicable, lines of equal altitude, commonly called contour lines, at every *four* feet of elevation, or at such other intervals as may appear, upon due inquiry, to be the best adapted for the guidance of works of sewerage and drainage, for the collection and distribution of water, and for other public and private purposes within such district."

Clause 113 gives commissioners power to pave streets; 117, to fix levels of all new streets.

Then, as to the width of streets—"Be it enacted, That it shall not be lawful to form, lay out, or build any new street within any town or district, unless the same, being a carriage-road, shall be at least *thirty* feet wide, or being a foot-way only, shall be at least *twenty* feet wide, but if the buildings, or any of them not being a public building fronting any street being a carriage-way be more than *thirty* feet high from the level of the street, or being a foot-way only, shall be more than *twenty* feet high from the level of the street, then such street must be of a width equal at the least to the height of such buildings above such level, and every such street being a foot-way only, shall have an entrance thereto, being at the least the full width of such street, and open from the ground upwards: Provided always, That these provisions shall not extend or apply to any street which shall be proved to the satisfaction of the commissioners to have been agreed to have been formed or set out in the disposition of any estate for sale in lots, and of which a sale plan shall have been so proved to have been prepared previous to the issuing of any Order in Council for enforcing the provisions of this Act within such town or district."

Commissioners are to provide for draining all towns not already sewered, and to build such main and other sewers as may be necessary.

House drains are to be formed.—"And whereas numerous houses and buildings have from time to time been erected and built without having proper drains communicating therefrom with any sewer, which proceedings are highly prejudicial to the public good; Be it enacted, That in all cases where any house or building, situate within any town or district, shall at any time be found not to be drained by a sufficient drain or pipe communicating with some sewer, and emptying itself into the same, to the satisfaction of the said commissioners, and if a sewer of sufficient size, under the jurisdiction of the said commissioners, shall pass along any street, and within *thirty* feet of any part of such house or building on a lower level than such house or building, it shall be lawful for the said commissioners, by notice in writing, to require the owner of such house or building forthwith, or within such reasonable time as shall be appointed by the said commissioners, to construct and make from such house or building, into the nearest common sewer, a covered drain or pipe of such materials, of such size, at such level, and with such fall, as shall be adequate for the drainage of such house or building, and also, if practicable, of its areas, water-closets, privies and offices, if any, and to carry and convey the soil, drain and wash therefrom into the said sewer; and if the owner of such house or building shall refuse or neglect, during *twenty-eight* days next after the said notice shall have been delivered to such owner, or left at such house or building, to begin to construct such drain, or shall thereafter fail to carry it on, and complete it with all reasonable despatch, it shall be lawful for the said commissioners, and they are hereby required, to cause the same to be constructed and made, and to recover the expenses to be incurred thereby in the manner hereinafter provided."

Before erecting new buildings, or rebuilding old ones, levels are to be settled by the commissioners.

Gully holes are to be trapped, to prevent the escape of effluvia.

Persons allowing stagnant water to remain within any house, or the contents of any cesspool to overflow or soak to the annoyance of adjoining occupiers, may be fined. They may require owners to provide privies and ashpits.

No. 175 is an important clause:—"And whereas the health of the population, especially of the poorer classes, is frequently injured by the prevalence of epidemical and other disorders, and the virulence and extent of such disorders is frequently due and owing to the existence of local causes which are capable of removal, but which have hitherto frequently escaped detection from the want of some experienced person to examine into and report upon them, it is expedient that power should be given to appoint a duly qualified medical practitioner for that purpose; Be it therefore enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said commissioners to appoint, subject to the approval of one of her Majesty's principal secretaries of state, a legally-qualified medical practitioner, of skill and experience, to inspect and report periodically on the sanatory condition of any town or district, to ascertain the existence of diseases, more especially epidemics increasing the rates of mortality, and to point out the existence of any nuisances or other local causes which are likely to originate and maintain such diseases and injuriously affect the health of the inhabitants of such town or district, and to take cognizance of the fact of the existence of any contagious disease, and to point out the most efficacious modes for checking or preventing the spread of such diseases, and also to point out the most efficient means for the ventilation of churches, chapels, schools, registered lodging-houses, and other public edifices within the said town or district, and to perform any other duties of a like nature which may be required of him; and such person shall be called the medical officer of health for the town or district for which he shall be appointed; and it shall be lawful for the said commissioners to pay to such officer such salary as shall be approved of by one of her Majesty's principal secretaries of state."

Commissioners may order owners and occupiers to cleanse, purify, and whitewash premises; and are to nominate inspectors of nuisances. Certain underground rooms are not to be let for dwellings.

Clause 191 directs commissioners to obtain reports on the best mode of supplying water; and to this part of the bill we shall return next week.

COST OF TIMBER VIADUCTS.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Railway Chronicle* supplies the cost of the following timber viaducts on the Newcastle and Darlington railway.

Sherburn Viaduct.—Length 220 yards, breadth within railway 24 feet, average depth 45 feet: total cost 6,340*l.*—220 yds. × 45 ft. × 26 ft. = 28,600 cubic yards; cost 6,340*l.* or 4s. 5d. per cubic yard.

Cassop Viaduct.—Length 153 yards, breadth 24 feet, average depth 34 feet: cost 4,069*l.*—153 yds. × 34 ft. × 26 ft. = 15,028 cubic yards; cost 4,069*l.* or 5s. 5d. per cubic yard.

Shincliffe Viaduct.—Length 220 yards, breadth 24 feet, average depth 48 feet: total cost 6,417*l.*—220 yds. × 48 ft. × 26 ft. = 30,507 cubic yards; cost 6,417*l.* or 4s. 3d. per cubic yard.

STIR IN THE SCHOOL OF DESIGN.

SINCE the appearance of the last communication on this subject in our pages, the annual meeting to distribute prizes to the successful students in the school has been held, and the disorganized state of the establishment has been brought under the notice of the House of Commons. Before alluding to these events, however, we insert the following letter, which reached us previously.

SIR,—As a letter has appeared in your journal signed by twelve students of the School of Design, and in which they attempt to prove that those students suspended by the council have misrepresented the state of the school, I trust you will permit me to answer such letter on behalf of my fellow students. Whatever might be reported as the words of Mr. Ewart, I do not for a moment believe that the expression there complained of was ever used by him. That the dispute had resulted in the withdrawal of the *senior* students or pupils almost without exception, was, I have no doubt, the term made use of; and which is the perfect truth.

Whether a letter which appeared in your paper of the 5th inst., signed H. J. L., was or was not the production of one of the suspended students I cannot say, my opinion certainly is that such is not the case, I therefore cannot feel that we are answerable for its assertions; but if your correspondent had written the following, he would certainly not have given those twelve any right to dispute the truth of his statement. (I will underscore the three additional words which I have placed in his sentence.) "In fact, the only students of promise the school could boast *of having educated* have been expelled." With the so much boasted answer that they will give on the 24th instant, I will have to do presently.

The letter then goes on to say that our assertion of the general discontent in the school was a falsehood; now the fact is, that at one of the meetings held by the suspended students, twelve or fourteen of the *senior* students of the large room attended, and there discussed the propriety of joining with us in petitioning the council. Those students were then advised by *me*, a *suspended student*, *not* to join with us; for this reason, that by far the larger portion of that room being filled with elementary students, the council would not know whether they were boys or men, and consequently they would only share in the difficulties without benefiting the cause advocated by us. Now of all those so attending there was not one that denied the truth of our assertions, but on the contrary, approved of them.

That twelve students can be found in the school (immediately previous to the awarding of the prizes) willing to purchase the good will of the director ought not perhaps to be a matter of surprise; but that any number, however small, could have the hardihood to string together such a mass of misrepresentation, and print it, and, moreover, to boast (as by them is done) that the precious production is unanswerable, is certainly astonishing. Now to the proof; and I willingly accept the test (of the past exhibitions) which they so boldly offer.

I must first premise that the present director has been two years and two months in the school; and also that one rule (No. 7, page 10) of the school says, "students who do not attend constantly, and regularly not to be allowed to compete for any of the prizes." Speaking of the last exhibition, they say that "unless then it can be proved that they who were beaten are superior to those who beat them." &c., &c. Now the facts are these: five prizes were last year taken by exhibitioners; four by students who have signed the letter in your paper (one of whom had not been a student the twelve months previous, and another has never studied in the school since till he came to compete for the present prizes), and thirteen by students signing the remonstrance.

Out of the twelve students signing the article in your paper eight have never before obtained a prize in the school, and therefore are strangers in it, or if they have before competed have been beaten, namely, Messrs. G. M'Kenzie, J. Woods, D. Pearse, R. Jefferson, C. Worrall, W. E. Cadman, C. Hairs, and P. Holland. W. C. Wild has not been a regular student in the school for two years (only com-

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